HO-576
Oakland Barn (aka Wilde Lake Barn)
10027& 10125 Hyla Brook Road
private

Description:
The Oakland Barn (aka Wilde Lake Barn) is located on the north side of Wilde Lake, in Columbia. The barn is a two-story banked structure with a rubble stone lower story and a board and batten upper story, and has a gable roof with standing-seam metal and an east-west ridge. The barn is banked into the hill on the north, with the lower story exposed on the south. The north elevation wall is raised in the center of the upper story, with a shed roof here and a pair or vertical-board wagon doors hung on rollers. On the east and west elevations the lower story has a seam in the center of the building, with quoins and earlier stonework to the north. The interior of the barn has a heavy-timber braced frame of circular-sawn timber that is mortised and tenoned and bolted, with braces that are wire-nailed. There are six bents in the center that consist of queen posts that support purlins that are ganged together two-by-eights. Several hundred feet to the east of the barn is a rubble stone banked foundation that appears to be from another barn. To the east of the foundation, at the east end of Wilde Lake, is a springhouse. It is a one-story, one-bay square rubble stone structure with a hipped roof that has new standing-seam metal. The roof cantilevers on the north side and is supported on a stone retaining wall on the north end, with the east and west sides of this cantilevered section open.

Significance:
In 1874 "Oakland Manor" was sold to Francis Morris (1810-1886) of Westchester, New York, for $85,000. Morris was involved in shipping, and was president of the Central American Transit Line and the American Telegraph Company. After their merger into Western Union he became treasurer of that company. Morris moved to "Oakland Manor" and was an agricultural reformer who did pioneering work in the study, use, and advocacy of ensilage. "Oakland Manor" farm and barn were made an agricultural landmark by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) in 1976, though it was recognized that the barn had been rebuilt and was probably not the one Morris used. The significance here is the process of experimenting with and developing the use of ensilage. The barn, itself, probably dates to the first quarter of the 20th century, and is an impressive structure from that period.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-576

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Oakland Manor Barn
other	Wilde Lake Barn

2. Location

street and number	10027& 10125 Hyla Brook Road	__ not for publication
city, town	Columbia	__ vicinity
county	Howard	

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Columbia Association, Inc.				
street and number	10221 Wincopin Circle			telephone	
city, town	Columbia	state	MD	zip code	21044-3423

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Howard County Courthouse			liber 3324	folio 191
city, town	Ellicott City	tax map 30	tax parcel 242	tax ID number	

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

_____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
_____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category
_____district
__X__building(s)
_____structure
_____site
_____object

Ownership
_____public
__X__private
_____both

Current Function
_____agriculture
_____commerce/trade
_____defense
_____domestic
_____education
_____funerary
_____government
_____health care
_____industry
_____landscape
__X__recreation/culture
_____religion
_____social
_____transportation
_____work in progress
_____unknown
_____vacant/not in use
_____other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
1

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-576

Condition

X excellent	___ deteriorated
___ good	___ ruins
___ fair	___ altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary:
The Oakland Barn (aka Wilde Lake Barn) is located on the north side of Wilde Lake, in Columbia. The barn is a two-story banked structure with a rubble stone lower story and a board and batten upper story, and has a gable roof with standing-seam metal and an east-west ridge. The barn is banked into the hill on the north, with the lower story exposed on the south. The north elevation wall is raised in the center of the upper story, with a shed roof here and a pair or vertical-board wagon doors hung on rollers. On the east and west elevations the lower story has a seam in the center of the building, with quoins and earlier stonework to the north. The interior of the barn has a heavy-timber braced frame of circular-sawn timber that is mortised and tenoned and bolted, with braces that are wire-nailed. There are six bents in the center that consist of queen posts that support purlins that are ganged together two-by-eights. Several hundred feet to the east of the barn is a rubble stone banked foundation that appears to be from another barn. To the east of the foundation, at the east end of Wilde Lake, is a springhouse. It is a one-story, one-bay square rubble stone structure with a hipped roof that has new standing-seam metal. The roof cantilevers on the north side and is supported on a stone retaining wall on the north end, with the east and west sides of this cantilevered section open.

Description:
The Oakland Barn (aka Wilde Lake Barn) is located at 10027& 10125 Hyla Brook Road, on the south side of the road, and on the north side of Wilde Lake, in Columbia in Central Howard County, MD.

Barn exterior
The barn is a two-story banked structure with a rubble stone lower story and a board and batten upper story, and has a gable roof with standing-seam metal and an east-west ridge. The roof has open eaves. The barn is banked into the hill on the north, with the lower story exposed on the south. The north elevation wall is raised in the center of the upper story, with a shed roof here and a pair or vertical-board wagon doors hung on rollers. There are two small wood louvered vents to each side, with a flush metal fire door added between each set of vents. There are two shed-roofed dormers with paired nine-light sash and vertical board siding. There are three louvered ventilator boxes or cupolas on the roof ridge, and they have gable roofs.

On the east elevation the lower story has board-and-batten doors hung on strap hinges in the south bay. The north bay has an opening that is closed off with board-and-batten siding and a large metal vent, and has patched stonework around the opening. The south bay opening has been altered with the stonework patched on both sides of the door and over it. There is a seam in the center of the building, with quoins and earlier stonework to the north; it appears that this was an earlier barn foundation that was enlarged to the south when the existing barn was built. The upper story has four vents, with two vents above it, and double doors in the gable end that are made with boards and battens. There is a triangular pent roof

carried out over the doors and this covers the hay track. The doors are hung on diagonal rollers and must slide down to open. There is a bronze plaque on the foundation, at the south end, that reads: "Designated a Historic Landmark of Agricultural Engineering."

On the south elevation the lower story has eight stone piers with herringbone board-and-batten infill in each bay. Two bays have fire doors added, and the center has an aluminum vent; all of this infill has been added. The upper story has one vent in each bay except the center bay. There are three typical dormers.

On the west elevation the lower story has a stone-infilled opening in the south bay. The north bay has a wide opening with board-and-batten infill and aluminum vent. There is patching around the opening that indicates it is a later alteration. There is a seam down the center of the foundation with quoins on the north side of the seam, like that on the east elevation. The stones on both sides of the seam have drill holes. The upper story has four vents, and had two above that, but the south one has been infilled. The gable end door opening has been closed off and has no rollers. The hay track extends outside, with a triangular pent roof covering it, and there is a pulley next to it with a hole in the siding next to the pulley.

Barn interior

The interior of the barn has a heavy-timber braced frame of circular-sawn timber that is mortised and tenoned and bolted, with braces that are wire-nailed. There are six bents in the center that consist of queen posts that support purlins that are ganged together two-by-eights. The center girts cut across the center floor and have beveled half-lapped scarf joints with four bolts. The framing creates an aisled building, and there are down-braces from the end posts into the aisles. The queen posts have up-braces to the girts, and have down-braces from just below the purlins down to the girts near the end posts. There are also up-braces from the queen posts to the purlins. The gable end bents have additional posts and braces and horizontal nailers for the siding. The rafters are circular-sawn 2-by-6s that support solid board sheathing and have gussets at the ridge. The foundation is raised above the floor level about 15 inches and the sill consists of two 2-by-10s that are ganged together. The floor is mostly plywood, with some 4-inch tongue-and-grooved boards in the center where the main doors are. There is a hay track that runs down the gable ridge for the whole length of the barn. The east end of the barn is closed off with a plywood wall and a partial floor. The rafters are two pieces and are lapped at the purlins. The west gable end has two wooden reels on the wall just below the hay track. The rafters were not cut through where the dormers are built. The purlin in the center bay, where the wagon doors are, are 2-by-12s because this is a longer span.

Stone foundation

Several hundred feet to the east of the barn is a rubble stone banked foundation that appears to be from another barn. It is banked slightly into a hill on the north and is close to Wilde Lake on the south, and it has new framing to support a shed roof of standing seam metal that slopes to the north; there are stepped parapet walls on the east and west in stone. The south elevation has a boarded-up window opening to the east with a steel lintel under a stone jack arch. Most of this elevation has infill with cross-buck doors below board-and-batten siding. The east elevation has a boarded-up window opening with a steel lintel beneath a stone jack arch. The north elevation has a boarded-up opening in the east bay that is full height, and must have been for a door. The west elevation has a boarded-up window opening set to the north with a steel lintel under the stone jack arch. This building is now used as a boat house.

Springhouse

To the east of the foundation/boat house, at the east end of Wilde Lake, is a springhouse. It is a one-story, one-bay square rubble stone structure with a hipped roof that has new standing-seam metal. The roof cantilevers on the north side and is supported on a stone retaining wall on the north end, with the east and west sides of this cantilevered section open. The south elevation has a new vertical-board door on T-hinges and has a steel lintel. The east elevation has a boarded-up opening with a steel lintel. The stone has been repointed and has a waterproof coating that is now peeling off. The roof has boxed eaves. The west elevation has a boarded-up opening with no lintel. The north elevation is open beneath the cantilever and has a doorway in the center off the north wall, with a new door. The opening has been raised, with the wood lintel cut through. The rafters are sawn, but there are no clear tool marks. The original plate spans the openings on the east and west, and the bottom face of the plate has half-dovetailed half laps to connect it to the north plate. The inner edge of the plate has a series of seven mortises for horizontals that ran east-west. The bottom face below each mortise has a nail hole in the center and a sawn roman numeral. The west side has "XXIII, XXIIII, XX/, XX/I, XX/II, and XX/III." The last Roman numeral is over top of the north wall and cannot be seen. The north wall has a segmentally-arched opening for a spring head, and it has cut stone voussoirs. Some of the rafters have plaster burns. The roof framing at the north end of the cantilever has a sole plate set about 18 inches south of the north wall, and the sole plate runs east-west. There are outriggers and dragon pieces nailed to the north side of the sole plate, and they run to the north and support a plate on which the rafters are toe-nailed. The rafters have a bird's-mouth cut at the foot. None of the nails could be examined. The bottom face of the sole plate has plaster burns. The east plate only has four mortises, none of them close to the building, and the ones that are here align with those on the west side. The Roman numerals are either not legible, or are missing. The plate is sash-sawn and has no half-lap joint on the bottom face. There is a lap cut into the outer edge, but it is not clear what this is for.

East and west of the building are sloped cheek walls of rubble stone attached to the north wall.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-576

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philosophy
__ 1800-1899	__ architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
__ 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce		__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ ethnic heritage	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning	__ exploration/ settlement	__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other: ____

Specific dates N/A **Architect/Builder** N/A

Construction dates c. first quarter 20th c.

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register ____X____not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary:
In 1874 "Oakland Manor" was sold to Francis Morris (1810-1886) of Westchester, New York, for $85,000. Morris was involved in shipping, and was president of the Central American Transit Line and the American Telegraph Company. After their merger into Western Union he became treasurer of that company. Morris moved to "Oakland Manor" and was an agricultural reformer who did pioneering work in the study, use, and advocacy of ensilage. "Oakland Manor" farm and barn were made an agricultural landmark by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) in 1976, though it was recognized that the barn had been rebuilt and was probably not the one Morris used. The significance here is the process of experimenting with and developing the use of ensilage. The barn, itself, probably dates to the first quarter of the 20th century, and is an impressive structure from that period.

Significance:
The history of "Oakland Manor" (HO-32) is recounted in detail in the inventory of the main house, only parts of which need be repeated for these outbuildings. The farm was offered it for sale in 1838 by Thomas Oliver, and a description of the property noted:

At the farm quarter (and a convenient distance from the mansion house) is the overseer's house, which is about 45 feet by 20, a two story stone quarter 51 feet by 24, also a log quarter 41 feet by 20, a dairy 29 feet by 19 built of stone, and well supplied by a fine spring. The out buildings are two large hay barns with stables below for cattle and horses, each house being 94 feet by 18, -- built of stone in the best manner, the lower story open to a southern exposure with a yard enclosed by a stone wall. Also a frame barn 75 feet by 59, with gearing and fixtures of modern construction for thrashing and cleaning grain by horse power. A log tobacco house 70 feet by about 22, – a log stable 40 feet by 20, two log corn houses, and sheds for wagons, carts and farming utensils.

"Oakland Manor" was purchased by George R. Gaither, a native of Montgomery County who had moved to Baltimore to establish a wholesale dry goods business, for $55,459.95 and the mill for another $2,600. Gaither came to Baltimore in 1825, at the age of 28, and "retired to private life" 15 years later. Thus, he must have bought "Oakland Manor" with an eye towards retirement, but it was also meant to be a productive farm. The 1850 agricultural census gives one the first glimpse of Gaither's operation, which seems to have been diverse, with crops of wheat, corn, oats, and hay, plus the production of wool and butter. If his production was typical for the region at that time, the scale was not; Gaither has 1400 acres under cultivation, with 25 horses, nine mules, and four oxen supplying the draft power, and 32 milch cows, 43 sheep, and 34 hogs. Since Gaither was not coming from the Tidewater agricultural tradition it is not surprising that he was raising no tobacco. By 1860 he had eliminated the sheep, reduced the number of milch cows and the production of butter, and increased pork production. The Gaithers sold the farm in 1864 to Philip and Katherine Tabb for $78,000, and moved back to Baltimore.[1]

Philip Tabb was a native of Virginia and his wife, Katherine Morris, was from New York. Neither Tabb nor Morris could be located in the 1870 agricultural census, suggesting the possibility that much of the farming at "Oakland Manor" was being conducted by one or more tenants at that time. Three years after purchasing "Oakland Manor" a survey was made of the property showing the arrangement of house and outbuildings as well as a perspective view of the mansion. In 1874 the Tabbs sold "Oakland Manor" to Katherine's father, Francis Morris (1810-1886) of Westchester, New York, for $85,000. Morris was a native of Monmouthshire, Wales, was involved in shipping, and was president of the Central American Transit Line and the American Telegraph Company. After their merger into Western Union he became treasurer of that company. Morris apparently moved to "Oakland Manor" and lived here with his daughter and son-in-law. Morris was more than just a racing enthusiast; he was also an agricultural reformer who did pioneering work in the study, use, and advocacy of ensilage. The agricultural census for 1880 does not reveal anything that would reflect Morris's reformist tendencies, but suggests a diversified farm operation much as Gaither had in 1850, again on a much larger scale than most neighboring farmers. After his death in 1886 "Oakland Manor" and all of the livestock and furnishings passed to Katherine Tabb and after her death three years later, to her two daughters. One of them,

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[1] *Baltimore American*, 21 September 1838, p. 3, col. 7. Partially quoted in Trostel, "A Report for the Adaptive Uses of Oakland." *Matchett's Baltimore Director*, 1837. *Baltimore American*, 20 September 1875, p. 4, col. 6. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Census, Howard District, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1850. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Census, District 5, Howard County, Maryland, 1860. Celia M. Holland, *Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland* (Author, 1987), pp. 363-64. Henry P. Goddard, "At Old Oakland Manor; A Relic of Other Days," *Baltimore Sun*, 1 September 1907, p. 3, cols. 3-6.

Katherine V. Tabb, acquired the interest of her sister in 1896 and shortly afterward married Francis Morris Lee of Virginia.[2]

"Oakland Manor" was sold to John V. L. Findlay, Jr. in 1906 and was quickly put under cultivation. Findlay was born in Baltimore c. 1878, the son of a congressman, graduated from Princeton, joined the Baltimore bar, and married Louise O'Donnell, from an old Baltimore family. The *Baltimore Sun* reported that Findlay began restocking the farm with cattle and poultry, suggesting that the Lee family had eventually removed such livestock from the farm. Findlay defaulted on his mortgage and "Oakland Manor" was offered for sale in 1923.[3]

The 1867 plat shows the farm quarter and outbuildings in the location of this barn, just north of the branch of the Little Patuxent River that now forms Wilde Lake, and it lists two buildings by name: the stone barn and the dairy. The dairy, or springhouse, is larger than most such structures on farms in Howard County, but this difference probably simply reflects the fact that "Oakland Manor" was considerably larger than most farms. The roof has been at least partially rebuilt, but the building survives relatively intact, and is likely the structure shown on the plat. The stone barn was located approximately where the existing Oakland Manor (Wilde Lake) Barn is, and the stone foundation of the present building may very well contain the remains of the earlier structure, since the foundation was clearly built in two stages. It is obvious that the foundation was for a narrower barn that was enlarged for the existing structure. The description of the barn as "stone" suggests that the whole building was of this material, rather than just the foundation, as it was in the 1838 description. All of the numerous surviving "Oakland Manor" buildings are of stone, so this would be consistent, but if so, the barn must have burned or suffered some other disaster that only left the lower part of it for reuse. The framing of the upper story of the barn is all circular sawn and is fastened with bolted mortise and tenon joints and with wire nails; it clearly dates to the 20th century, and could not be Francis Morris's barn of 1876. It was probably built by the Findlay family, though no records have been found to confirm this. Nevertheless, the barn is of interest for its continued use of heavy timber framing, in a pattern that is more consistent with aisled medieval tithe barns rather than local bank barns.

The farm and barn were made an agricultural landmark by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) in 1976, though it was recognized that the barn had been rebuilt and was probably not the one Morris used. The significance here is the process of experimenting with and

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[2] Goddard, "At Old Oakland Manor." *Baltimore Sun*, 1 September 1907, p. 3. Nicholas DiBrino, *The History of the Morris Park Racecourse and the Morris Family*. (Bronx Co., NY: 1977), pp 42-43. Joetta Cramm, *Howard County: A Pictorial History* rev. ed. (Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company, 2004), p. 82. Holland, *Old Homes and Families*, pp. 364-65. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Census, District 5, Howard County, Maryland, 1880. Francis Morris Estate, Will TBH 2-593, Register of Wills, Howard County Circuit Court, Maryland State Archives.

[3] Goddard, "At Old Oakland Manor." *Ellicott City Times*, 14 June 1923, p. 4, col. 3.

developing the use of ensilage. While ensilage may seem an unglamorous, even mundane, thing, it was considered at the time to be "the salvation of Eastern farmers," since it preserved the cattle feed and thus produced healthier cattle that could better compete with larger Midwestern farms. The modern ensilage process was perfected by Auguste Goffart, of France, who published his "Manual of the Culture of Siloing of Maize and Other Green Crops" in 1877, after experimenting with the process for 25 years, but there were others in France and Germany who were also working on the method. Morris learned of this work, some of which was reported in the American Farmer, published in Baltimore, in 1874 and 1875, and had his grandson, a student in Paris, send him Goffart's book. He arranged to have the book quickly translated into English by J. B. Brown, of the New York Plow Co., who then published the translation and distributed it primarily as a promotional advertisement for his company. However, it is clear that Morris was making plans to experiment himself with ensilage based on the early reports, before Goffart's book had even been published. The general process of ensilage consisted of cutting the corn stalks or grass while still green, chopping it into small pieces and storing it under pressure, which forced out most of the oxygen. The remaining oxygen in the fodder initiated fermentation, which used up the oxygen and arrested further fermentation. The fodder was then preserved for a long time in a nutritious state, with only some of it near the edges developing mold or mildew, and was happily eaten by livestock.[4]

On 1 August 1876 Morris planted five acres in maize with the intention of experimenting with it as ensilage, and in early October, when it was in tassel, the corn was cut with a mowing machine, cut into one-inch pieces and mixed with wheat straw of the same size, and placed in the silos. Morris described them in 1878: "I had three [his earlier report stated two] silos bricked up inside a stone barn. The silos were about ten feet deep and four feet wide, and twenty-four feet long. The fodder was well packed down by trampling while the mixture was put away, and then covered with boards with large and heavy stones upon them. After the weights had pressed it down very considerably, they were taken off, the boards covered with straw, and then with clay; the latter were thoroughly packed, and the whole was made a perfect protection against the oxygen of the atmosphere penetrating through the clay or earth." Morris opened his first trench on Christmas and fed his dairy cows with it, and later fed horses, mules, oxen, sheep, and pigs, finding that they all preferred it to any other feed. Some of the fodder in one silo had spoiled, which Morris believed was due to poor drainage. A visitor to "Oakland Manor" in 1879 noted of the silos in the barn: "They are plain brick vaults, and Mr. Morris says they would have preserved the corn fodder completely had they been thoroughly lined with hydraulic cement, and the bottom filled with small stones and then covered with cement." Morris later did cover them with

[4] Francis Morris, "Preserving Green Corn Fodder," *American Farmer*, series B, 6, no. 3, (1877): 94. I am indebted to Carol Flaut of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers for providing copies of this and other original source material on Morris's activities. Lyman Carrier, "The History of the Silo," *Journal of the American Society of Agronomy*, 12, no. 5 (May 1920): 175-82.

cement, and described them as "now perfect." Morris had also mixed salt with his fodder as he filled the trenches, but found that this was unnecessary. He found that the ensilage shrunk by about one third between filling and emptying the trench.[5]

In 1877 Morris repeated the experiment, though due to dry conditions his crop was not large. He did not report how much fodder he ensiled, "but it was sufficient to feed nearly a thousand head of stock for over two months," which gives an indication of the size of operation he was running. The following year Morris added a large silo outside, which he estimated would hold 50 to 75 tons of fodder, and continued using his silos in the barn, as well. A report several years later noted:

"Especial attention is invited to the earth-silos mentioned in the statement of Francis Morris, Esq., of Oakland Manor, Md. Mr. Morris is a pioneer in ensilage in America, his first silos having been built, and filled, in 1876. These were in the basement of his barn, walls of masonry. The next year he made a trench in sloping ground so that a cart could be backed in at the lower end for conveying ensilage to the feeding-room. The sides are sloping and the average depth does not exceed six feet.

"The cost is simply the cost of digging a ditch of similar dimensions. This trench was filled in 1877 [actually 1878] and regularly since, and has kept its contents perfectly. Mr. Morris has several silos of the same kind, in different places, for convenience in filling. He uses a large cutter driven by a steam-engine, and packs in the silo by treading with horses. The filling is carried several feet above the surface of the ground, and rounded up at the center, the excavated earth serving to confine the ensilage. The covering is first roofing felt, then earth for weight.

"Mr. Morris has put in whole fodder and it has kept perfectly. He cuts it fine, mainly for convenience in handling and feeding. Whole fodder should be laid across, rather than lengthwise in the trench, so that it can be taken out easily.

"In order that the extent of Mr. Morris's operations may be understood, it is proper to add that his estate of Oakland manor comprises about 1700 acres. His wheat crop last year (1882) was 5000 bushels. The meadows yield upward of 200 tons of hay annually. The stock consists of 50 horses and mules, 100 cattle, 500 sheep and 50 hogs."

The details of the size of the trenches seems to vary, which probably reflects not only poor memory (most of the reports are within a year or two of the event), but constant experimentation, addition, and changing of the facilities year by year. The ground in which Morris was building his trench silos was described as having "clay for a foot or 18 inches on top and a rotten rock below." In 1880 Morris

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[5] Francis Morris, "Culture and Ensilage of Maize. Introduction of Ensilage in the United States." Typescript copy, no publication name given, December 1878. E. H. Holley to *The Cultivator and Country Gentleman*, 20 March 1879. Francis Morris, "Ensilage of Corn Fodder." *Agricultural Review* 2, no. 1 (January 1882): 141. Francis Morris, "Ensilage of Corn Fodder." *Agricultural Review* 2, no. 1 (January 1882): 164.

planned to build a number of trench silos "radiating from a center so that he can fill conveniently without moving his machinery." It does not appear that he followed through on this plan, since in 1882 he wrote: "My present practice is to put my trenches in the field where the corn grows."[6]

The 1880s were a time of experimentation both in how to prepare the fodder, and in what type of structure it would best keep. In 1881 a number of east-coast farmers organized the First Ensilage Congress, and met in New York. They were joined by Midwestern farmers, and together elected Francis Morris of "Oakland Manor" as the president. Morris presented more details on his trench silos at the meeting: "with the assistance of a yoke of oxen and a scraper, [we] dug out trenches eleven feet wide at top, seven feet at bottom, and seven or more feet deep. We fill these full, and then put as much as we can pile on it, and cover it with boards or earth. I always use a felt covering on the top of the fodder to keep it clean and the air out. We probably put 20 inches of earth on it, and we frequently run the oxen and cart over it. The top of the earth, or the top of the silo or trench, we watch, and if there are any cracks we fill them up. We exclude the air under all circumstances." In 1883 Morris stated that he only used earth silos, which he was a proponent of because they were inexpensive, so any farmer could use them by simply digging a pit. While ensilage would work with any green crop, Morris preferred maize because, by his estimate, the hay crop would only be one ton per acre, and require much labor, while the maize crop could easily be 25 tons per acre, and require much less work. He found that his livestock preferred the ensilage to fresh clover, too.[7]

In January 1883 the Second Ensilage Congress was organized, and Francis Morris of "Oakland Manor" was again elected as its president. The honor went to Morris because he was "the first man who built a silo, or fodder pit, in this country." Due to failing health he missed subsequent congresses, but did not fail to report the latest findings of his experiments. His last report, in 1886, the year he died, noted:

We had 50 acres in corn fodder this year. Have two new silos; one 117 feet long by 16 feet wide and 6 feet deep; the other, 92 feet long by 13 feet wide and 6 feet deep. Took 10 men 2 ½ days with scoop and

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[6] *The Farmers Practical Guide*, 1902, p. 314, available at http://www.veterinaryadviceandinformation.com/The_Farmers_Practical_Guide/Ensilage.html. This appears to be a republication, in 1902, of information first reported several weeks after the second congress. The original source of the information is not noted, and could not be discovered at this time. American Dairymen Association, *Fifteenth Annual Report*. (Utica, NY, 1880), p. 23. Francis Morris, "Ensilage of Corn Fodder." *Agricultural Review* 2, no. 1 (January 1882): 141.

[7] Francis Morris, "Ensilage of Corn Fodder." *Agricultural Review* 2, no. 1 (January 1882): 141.} "The Value of Ensilage," *The New York Times*, 25 January 1883, query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf. J. Thomas Reid, "Nutrition and Feeding of Dairy Cattle." *Journal of Dairy Science*, 39, no. 6 (1956): 740. Francis Morris, "Culture and Ensilage of Maize. Introduction of Ensilage in the United States." Typescript copy, no publication name given, December 1878. Holley to *The Cultivator and Country Gentleman*.

oxen; say cost in all about $25. This makes 5 silos altogether; I use 3 wagons, 4 mules each, and have employed about 22 men and boys at 75 cents per day. Use steam engine and N. Y. Plow Co.'s large Cyclone Cutter, which would cut over 100 loads a day, but we can only haul 60 loads a day. I need to have a carrier for the cutter, as it is a great loss of labor in throwing back the cut fodder. It takes five men to cut the fodder in the field, suing a straight cutting knife. . . . Corn should be planted wider than 3 ½ feet and not thick in the row, well fertilized and with high cultivation. While filling, the mules are ridden up and down the silo twice a day, fifteen minutes each time, to pack it. Labor for filling costs 30 cents per ton, but we shall improve on that.
. . . In a fifty-acre crop it should not all be seeded at once, but at two or three times. . . . We have about 1,000 tons ensilage.[8]

Morris must have been happy with the results of ensilage, because he clearly continued to increase his production of ensilage. He also was learning from the experiments of others, having apparently abandoned the use of heavy stones for the use of livestock to compress the fodder, a technique that other farmers discussed at earlier ensilage congresses. With Morris's death, experimentation with ensilage at "Oakland Manor" seems to have ended. As has already been established, the upper story of the barn was replaced after Morris no longer owned "Oakland Manor." Nonetheless, it seems likely that the existing barn foundation is the one that was used in 1876 for Morris's first pit silo.

[8] Letter from Francis Morris, *Report of the Proceedings of the Fifth Ensilage Congress*, p. 41.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-576

See footnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	7.5 A		
Acreage of historical setting	533 A		
Quadrangle name	Savage	Quadrangle scale:	1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of Wilde Lake and/or the stream that is associated with it on the south, Hyla Brook Road on the north, and imaginary north-south lines 10 feet west of the barn and 10 feet east of the springhouse, which encompasses all of the known historic buildings on the site.

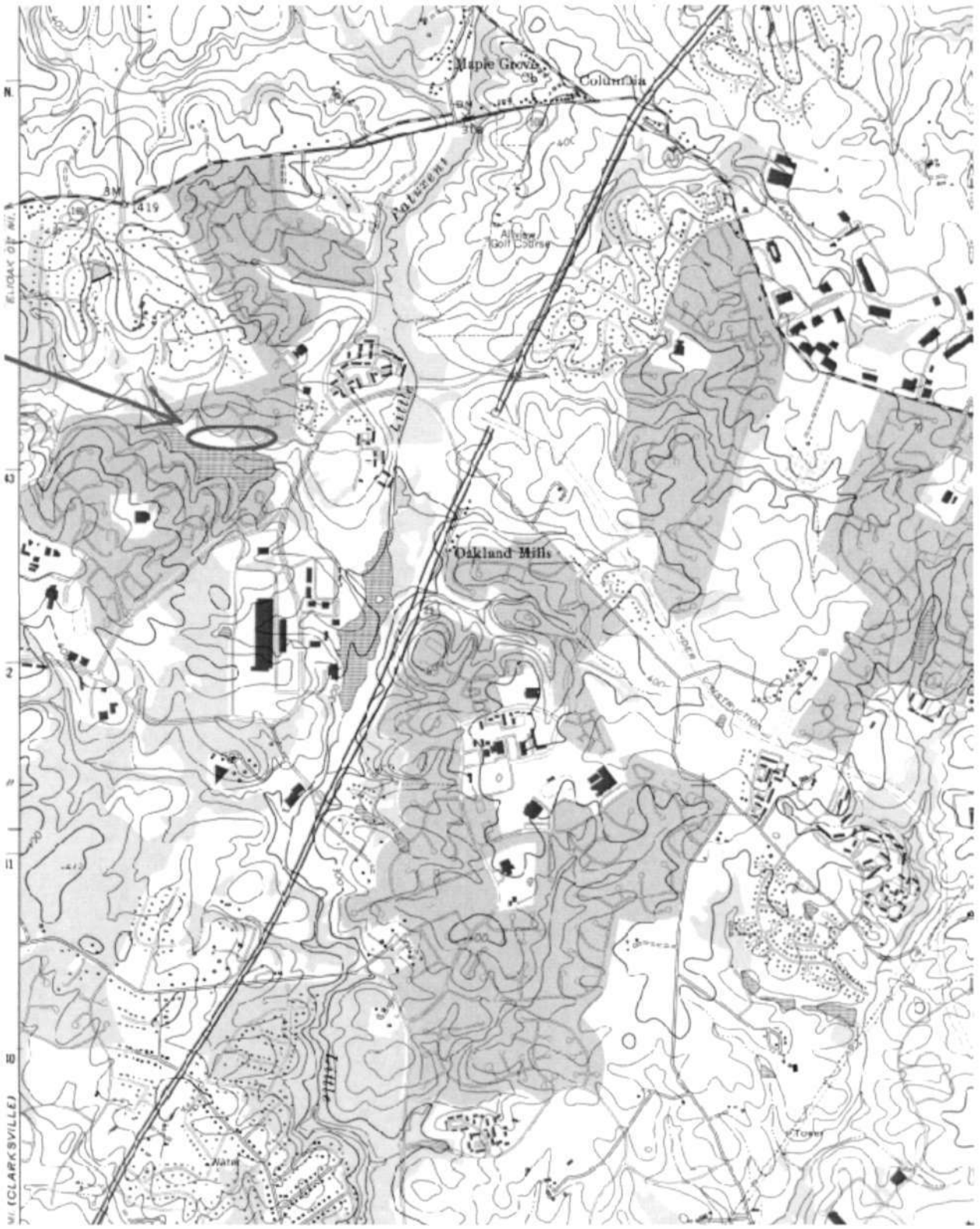
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	September 2009
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



HO-576
Oakland Manor (Wilde Lake) Barn
10027 & 10125 Hyla Brook Road
Savage quad

HO-576
Oakland Manor (Wilde Lake) Barn
10027 & 10125 Hyla Brook Road
Howard County, Maryland
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log
Nikon D-70 camera
HP Premium Plus paper
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-0576_2009-07-02_01
Barn, north elevation

HO-0576_2009-07-02_02
Barn, south & east elevations

HO-0576_2009-07-02_03
Barn, south elevation

HO-0576_2009-07-02_04
Barn, West & south elevations

HO-0576_2009-07-02_05
Barn, interior, view west

HO-0576_2009-07-02_06
Shed, south & east elevations

HO-0576_2009-07-02_07
Springhouse, west & north elevations

HO-0576_2009-07-02_08
Springhouse, north embankment wall

HO-576
Oakland Manor (Wilde Lake) Barn
10027 & 10125 Hyla Brook Rd.
Howard County, MD
Ken Short
July 2, 2009
MD SHPO
Barn, North Elevation
1/8

HO-576
Oakland Manor (Wilde Lake) Barn
10027 & 10125 Hyla Brook Rd
Howard County, MD
Ken Short
July 2, 2009
MD SHPO
Barn, South & East elevations
2/8

HO-576
Oakland Manor (Wilde Lake) Barn
10027 & 10125 Hyla Brook Road
Howard County, MD
Ken Short
July 2, 2009
MD SHPO
Barn, South Elevation
3/8

HO-576
Oakland Manor (Wilde Lake) Barn
10027 & 10125 Hyla Brook Road
Howard County, MD
Ken Short
July 2, 2009
MD SHPO
Barn, West & South Elevations
4/8

HO-576
Oakland Manor (Wilde Lake) Barn
10027 & 10125 Hyla Brook Rd
Howard County, MD
Ken Short
July 2, 2009
MD SHPO
Barn, interior, view West
5/8

HO-576
Oakland Manor (Wilde Lake) Barn
10027 & 10125 Hyla Brook Rd.
Howard County, MD
Ken Short
July 2, 2009
MD SHPO
Shed, South & East Elevations
6/8

HO-576
Oakland Manor (Wilde Lake) Barn
10027 & 10125 Hyla Brook Rd
Howard County, MD
Ken Short
July 2, 2009
MD SHPO
Springhouse, West & North Elevations
7/8

HO-576
Oakland Manor (Wilde Lake) Barn
10027 & 10125 Hyla Brooke Rd.
Howard County, MD
Ken Short
July 2, 2009
MD SHPO
Springhouse, North Embankment Wall
8/8

HO-576 1876
Wilde Lake Barn (Oakland Manor Barn)
Columbia

The stone barn on the bank of Wilde Lake in Columbia, Maryland bears a plaque which was dedicated by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers in 1976 and reads: "Designated a Historic Landmark of Agricultural Engineering. At Oakland Manor in 1876, Francis Morris built brick silos in his barn and introduced the practice of making corn silage in the U.S. His further experiments developed the use of earthen trenches and thereby significantly contributed to the development of American agriculture."

Although Fred Hatch of Spring Grove, Illinois is honored as having built the first vertical silo in the United States (1873), Francis Morris has the distinction of having built the first trench silos (underground).

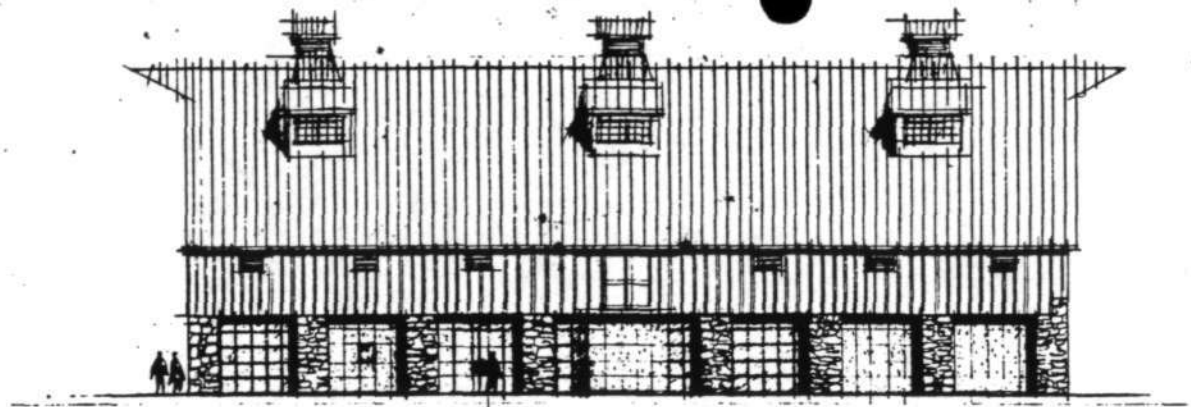
The following paragraphs are excerpts from an article in the May, 1977 issue of Agricultural Engineering (p. 23):

> Francis Morris, a Maryland Farmer who owned and operated the 1500-acre farm called Oakland Manor, became widely recognized in the late nineteenth century for his successful work in preserving silage in trench silos. . . . While those first trench silos Morris designed and had constructed are long gone, many of the original farm buildings are still in use.

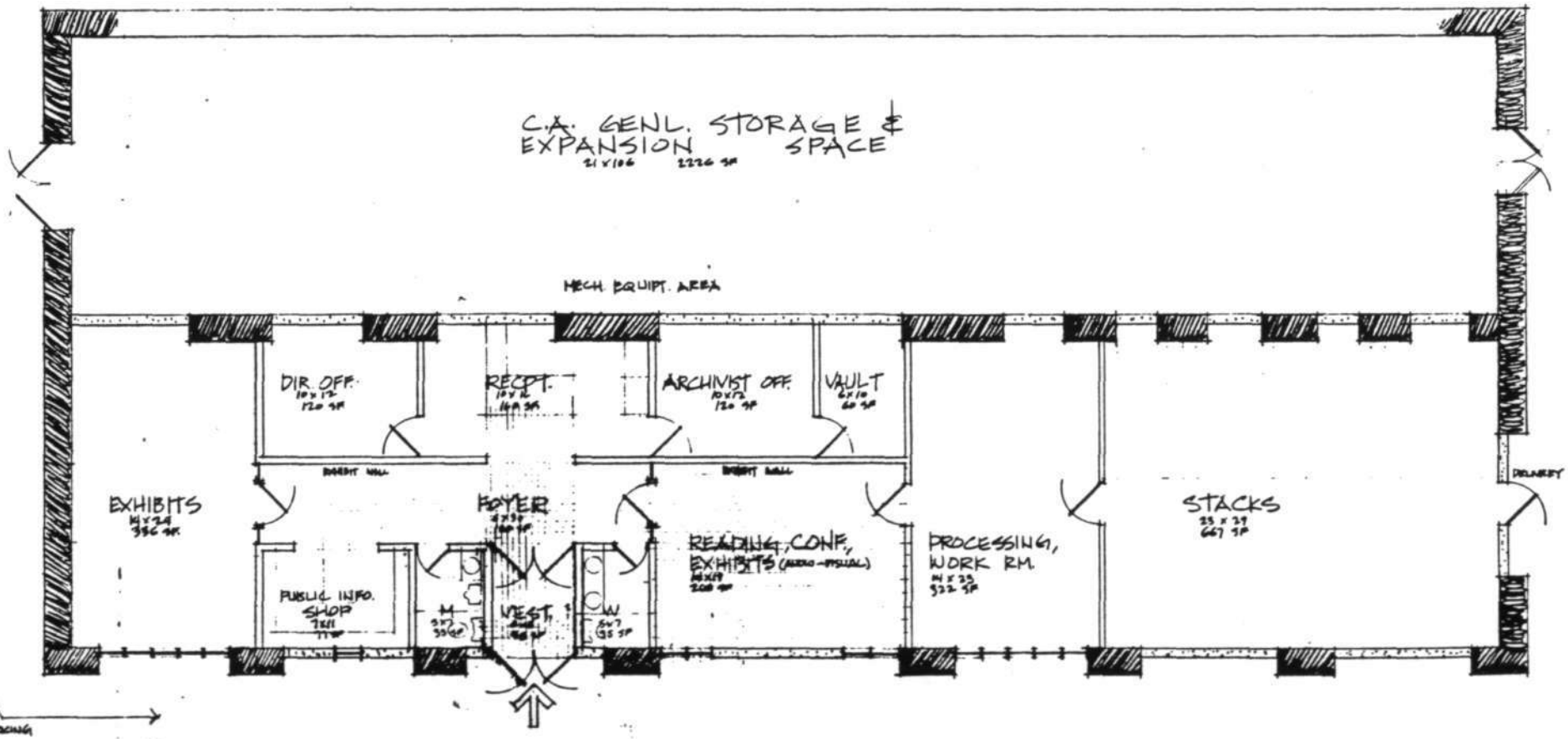
Morris, a New York banker turned agriculturalist, experimented for 10 years with ensiled corn and its feeding. He opened his farm to all who wanted to learn more of this emerging technique and was active in publicizing it across the nation.

In 1876 Morris had learned of a technique the French used to preserve Indian corn or maize by burying the cut stalks in trenches. Specifically Morris had followed a system described by a Monsieur A. Goffart in his book, "Culture and Ensilage of Maize." Anaerobic conditions were achieved in the trench by trampling the cut stalks to compress them, then covering the trench with boards covered with straw and tightly packed clay.

When he died in 1886 there were five trench silos at Oakland Manor -- one was 117 ft. long.



BARN SOUTH ELEVATION 1/8"-1'-0"



MUSEUM & ARCHIVES of the HISTORY of COLUMBIA 23 x 106 2650 SF

HO-576
Wilde Lake Barn
(Oakland Manor Barn)

HO-576

HO-32
District #5

Oakland Manor Barn
Robert Oliver's Carriage House

Location: 5410 Leaf Treader Way
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Class: District Owners: Private Status: Occupied Access to Public: Unrestricted

Present Use: Education/Religion

Owner of Property: Kittamaqundi Community, Inc.
5410 Leaf Treader Way
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Location of Legal Description: Record's Office
Howard County Courthouse
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Title Reference: Map 30, Blk 20, p. 303 5-96-559
Title Survey: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory
Date: September 1976

Location of Records: Maryland Historical Trust
2 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland

Condition: Excellent Status of Building: Altered Original Site

HO-576

OAKLAND MANOR BARN

Description

This stone masonry barn is characterized by doorways set into shallow blind roman arches, decorated with ashlar stretcher stone lintels on its north and south facades and windows and doorways set into shallow blind gothic arches on its east and west facades.

Presently two and a half stories high it was originally a single story barn. It is set on a stone foundation three bays wide and two bays deep facing north. It's present gabled roof and dormers were constructed in the 1940's and replaced the gable roof which covered the central bay and ran north-south with a lower roof covering the east and west bays which dipped in the middle and sloped east and west to provide drainage for the roof. The original line of the roof may be seen in the masonry on the east and west interior walls of the building. A parapet was located on the east and west facade flush with the walls.

Presently a wide shed roofed dormer window of 1940 vintage takes up the entire middle bay of the north and south facades, its north and south walls lying flush with the north and south walls of the barn. Each dormer holds a square window, one on each side of a recessed horizontal rectang le.

A central rectangular double south entrance door is set into a recessed Roman arch, which was originally open, but now is closed. A one lite circular window rests above the entrance and is decorated with ashlar stretcher stones along its circumference. A full arched stone lintel decorates the recessed arch, while a horizontal rectangular one lite casement window flanks each side of the circular window and a first floor vertical rectangular one lite casement window with flat arched stretcher stone lintel lies on each side of the central north entrance.

The east and west bays of the north elevation are identical to the central bay with the following exceptions: (1) there is no circular window above the entrance door and the full arched stone lintels are segmental rather than round arched. The gabled roof which runs east-west extends below the central dormer whose north wall lies flush with the buildings's north wall. Inset into the center of the roof of the east and west bays of both the north and south elevations are shed roofed dormer windows holding a horizontal rectangular tri partite window consisting of three one lite casement windows. The east, west and north walls of the dormer are of wood frame construction while the sashes are of cypress.

A gabled roof (running east-west) cupola sits on the apex of the roof in the center of the east and west bays, smaller in scale than the central bay cupola but identical to it in ever other respect, namely: (1) its wood frame pyrimidal base construction (2) its four wooden posts which rise from the base to support the gabled roof and hold one lite horizontal rectangular windows on the north and south elevation and

wooden lintels and sills.

The central gothic recess, imperceptably larger in scale holds a rectangular entrance door.

A cement side walk runs along the east and north walls of the building with concrete stairs descending on the east and west bays of the north facade to a parking lot. A concrete patio whose base consists of R R ties lies on the west side at the north west corner of the building. The pleasant landscaping was executed by Mr. Cy Paumier, a well known planning consultant and landscape architect.

The interior central bay is used for worship services while the west bay is used for offices with stalls of 1900 vintage providing the dividers.

The only structural addition in the central bay is a steel plate running along the sheathing on each side of two supporting beams.

HO-576

OAKLAND MANOR BARN

Significance

The significance of the Oakland Manor Barn or Oliver Carriage House lies in both its architecture and its history.

Architectually it is an exceedingly well constructed and well designed structure rivaling the Carriage House of Oakdale in the western part of Howard County.

The altered roof line only serves to enhance the fine stone work and rich detail of the barn walls, creating a symnetry and scale all its own which does not complete but rather complements the existing stone fabric.

The use of roman arched recesses holding rectangular apertures and the use of varied geometrical shapes such as squares, vertical rectangles and horizontal rectangles all add interest and afford variety to the facade of the building.

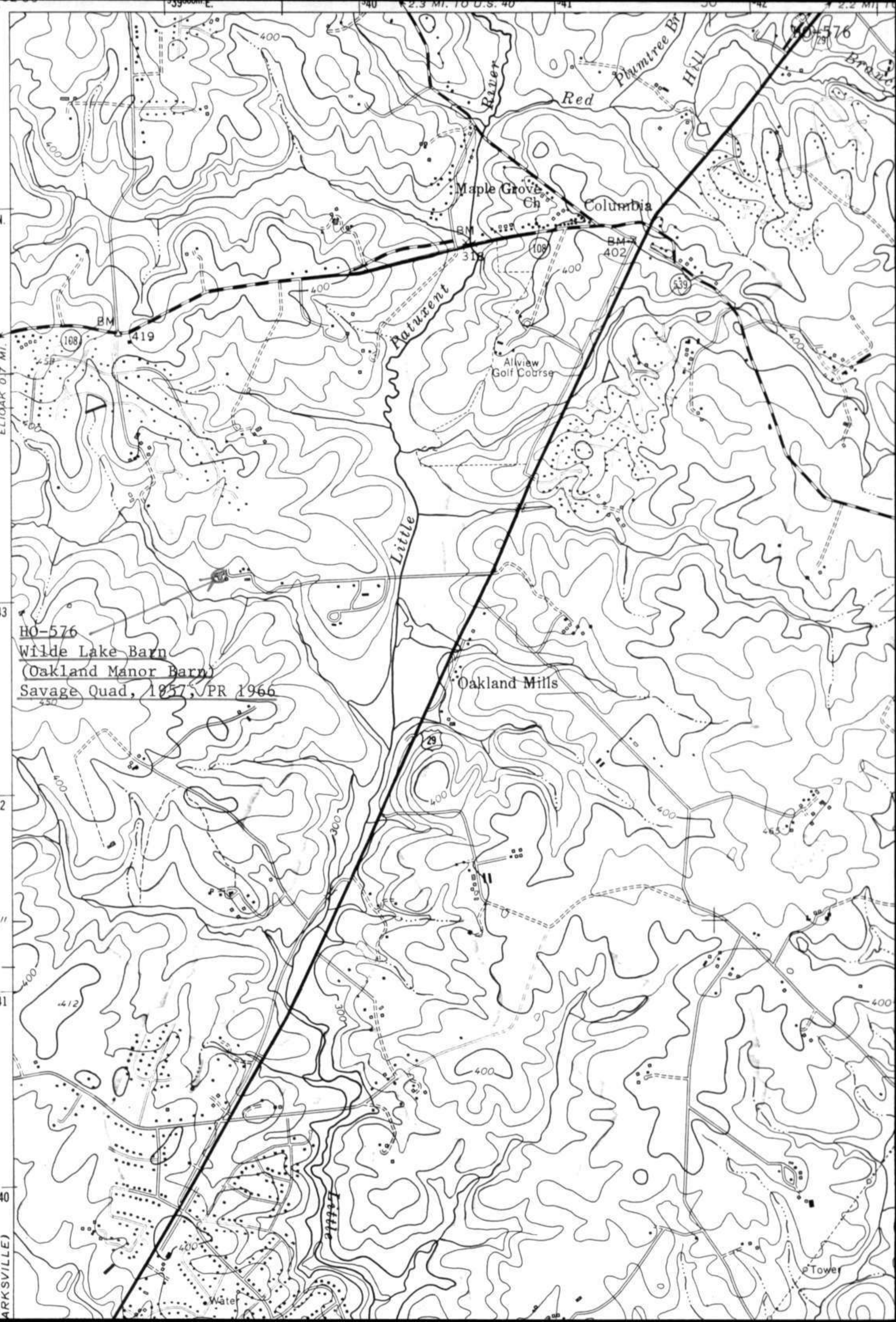
The tasteful restoration of this barn undertaken by the Kittamaqundi Community with the aid of able planners, architects and landscape architects has further added to the significance of this structure, modernizing, cleaning out and simplifying its features. An example of the latter is the leveling of the first floor which was originally in three levels; the west bay a concrete floor which fell four inches to another concrete floor in the central bay which in turn fell four to six inches to a dirt floor in the east bay. All this was rectified by tearing out the concrete floors, leveling the east bay floor and installing heating ducts under the presently constructed floor creating a level first floor.

Recycled for religious and educational use by the Kittamaqundi Community has given this marvelous structure a future and new life.

The large second floor east and west windows will enhance the plan for the east and west interior loft areas, offering light and a scenic view to areas planned to be utilized by seminar groups.

Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars has already been expended on the renovation of this structure.

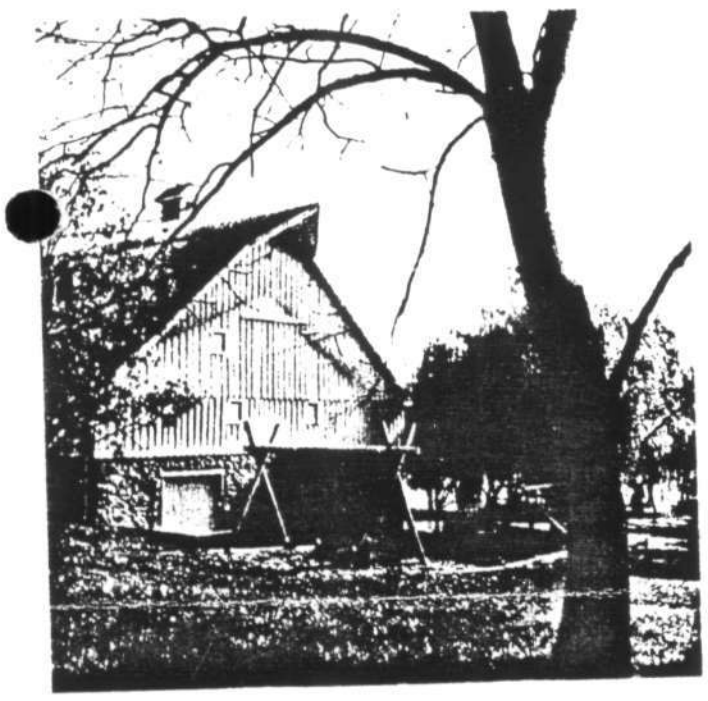
Not only money, but careful planning and restoration techniques have been involved in this marvelous effort by a private group. It is noteworthy architecturally and historically and should most certainly be included in the National Register of Historic Places as Oliver's Carriage House.



39°15′
2.3 MI. TO U.S. 40
2.2 MI
HO-576
Red
Plumtree Br
Hill
River
Maple Grove Ch
Columbia
BM
318
108
BM
402
539
Patuxent
BM
419
108
Allview Golf Course
HIGHLAND 6.6 MI.
ELIOAK 0.7 MI.
Little
4345000m N.
4343
4342
4341
4340
12′30″
HO-576
Wilde Lake Barn
(Oakland Manor Barn)
Savage Quad, 1957, PR 1966
Oakland Mills
29
400
300
465
412
Little
Water
Tower

HO-576

LAKE VIEW - SOUTH



WEST SIDE

EAST SIDE

Designated a Historic Landmark of Agricultural Engineering
At Oakland Manor in 1876, Francis Morris built brick silos
in his barn and introduced the practice of making corn
silage in the U.S. His further experiments developed the
use of earthen trenches and thereby significantly contributed
to the development of American agriculture.

Dedicated by American Society of Agricultural Engineers, 1976

(text of plaque)

HO-376

DIST 5 ~~HO-32~~
OAKLAND BARN

CTB THOMPSON